

APRIL 1997

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CATS FROM APPROVED COUNTRIES IN WHICH
DOG-MEDIATED RABIES IS ABSENT OR WELL-CONTROLLED

1. These conditions apply to the importation of cats from certain countries and territories recognized by the Australian Government as countries or territories in which dog-mediated rabies is absent or well controlled. A list of approved countries and territories in which dog-mediated rabies is absent or well controlled is at Appendix 1. The list is subject to change. Importers should check with the Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine) [PVO(Q)] at the time of applying for an import permit.
2. These conditions form part of the permit to Import. The complete current Import Permit must accompany the cat into Australia.
3. Each cat being imported must also be accompanied by Veterinary Certificate A signed by the registered veterinarian or Official Veterinarian who has performed the treatments and examinations specified in these conditions, and Veterinary Certificate B signed by an Official Veterinarian of the exporting country or territory.

[An Official Veterinarian is a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian as authorized by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country or territory and able to sign certificates on behalf of that Veterinary Administration. In the case of cats imported from the USA, the Veterinary Certificate B must be signed by an USDA/APHIS Veterinarian.]

The Veterinary certificates A and B (as included with these conditions) must be in English and, where necessary, in a language understood by the certifying Official Veterinarian. The cat must be certified as having met the residency, disease testing, treatment and clinical health requirements specified in these conditions. The certification must also include the following information:

- a. age or date of birth of the cat,
- b. the sex, breed, color, coat type and markings, including distinguishing marks,
- c. identifying microchip number, type and implantation site,
- d. place of origin of the cat (where it has been domiciled for the past six months)
- e. name and address of the exporter,
- f. name and address of the consignee,
- g. means of transport.

Each page of Veterinary Certificate A, the laboratory reports and vaccination certificates must be stamped with an Official Stamp of the Government of the exporting country and be endorsed by signature and date by the Official Veterinarian who completes Veterinary Certificate B.

[Corrections to entries made in e certificates will only be accepted in the following circumstances:

- correction fluid must not be used, and
- the original entry has been struck through and remains legible and the correction is written adjacent to the original (for example, Breed: ~~Chinchilla~~ Burmese), and
- each correction has been signed by the Official Veterinarian.]

****NOTE: Veterinary Certificates A and B have been provided to each Area Office in a hard copy format. The exporter may have a copy of these which was included with their import permit. Please encourage them to use the certificates we have developed instead, as they are specific for animals from the U.S..**

GENERAL CONDITIONS

4. Residency
 - 4.1 The cat must have been continuously resident in the country or territory of export for at least six (6) months prior to export, and must not have been in quarantine or under quarantine restriction during the thirty (30) days immediately preceding export, except that

4.2 cats imported directly from Australia into the country or territory of export may be returned to Australia with less than six (6) months residency under the following additional conditions:

- the cat has resided continuously in the country or territory of export since being imported directly from Australia, and
- the cat was vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated rabies vaccine at least one (1) month and not more than six (6) months prior to leaving Australia when the cat was at least three (3) months of age, and
- the cat was identified by microchip prior to, or at the time of, rabies vaccination in Australia, and
- the cat has been subjected to a serum rabies neutralizing antibody titre test no less than 60 days, and no more than 12 months prior to re-export to Australia, with satisfactory results (at least 0.5 IU/ml).

Applicants seeking permission to re-import a cat/s under these conditions will be required to provide proof of the rabies vaccination, rabies neutralizing antibody titre test result and microchip identification.

5. Pregnancy Status

Female cats more than six (6) weeks pregnant at the time of export and female cats suckling young are ineligible for importation.

6. Age restriction

Cats under six (6) months of age at the time of export are ineligible for importation.

7. Post-entry Quarantine Period

The cat imported under these conditions will be required to serve a period of quarantine in an approved animal quarantine station after arrival (see Section 18 below).

SANITARY CONDITIONS

8. Rabies vaccination

8.1 Vaccination regime

The cat must have been vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated vaccine when at least three (3) months of age according to one of the following regimes:

- in the case of a primovaccination, not less than 90 days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to export; OR
- if the primovaccination was given more than twelve (12) months prior to export the cat must have been given a booster vaccination within the twelve (12) months prior to export; OR
- in the case of a cat being returned to Australia under the conditions at 4.2 above, the vaccination regime specified therein.

The vaccination certificate/s, or copies endorsed by an Official Veterinary, for these rabies vaccinations must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.

8.2 Rabies neutralizing antibody titre testing

To ensure that the rabies vaccination/s is effective the cat must undergo a rabies neutralizing antibody titre tests with a satisfactory result (satisfactory is at least 0.5 IU/ml.). The animal's identifying microchip number must be used to identify the samples and must appear on the laboratory reports.

The rabies test must be performed not less than 60 days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to the date of export. The laboratory report from this test must be endorsed by the Official Veterinarian and sent with the application for an Import Permit. An Import Permit which includes these conditions will not be issued if the laboratory report is not satisfactory.

8.3 Identification for vaccination/sampling

The cat must be identifiable by a microchip implanted at or before the time of sampling for the rabies neutralizing antibody titre test performed to ensure the cat is eligible for importation. In the case of a cat being returned to Australia with less than six months residency in the country of export, the microchip must have been implanted prior to, or at the time of, rabies vaccination in Australia.

9. Other vaccinations

The cat must have been vaccinated against feline enteritis, feline rhinotracheitis and feline calicivirus at least fourteen (14) days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to export.

The vaccination certificate/s, or copies endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, for these vaccinations must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.

10. Internal parasites

Within fourteen (14) days prior to export the cat must be treated with approved anthelmintics effective against nematodes and cestodes. The active ingredient/s and dose rate must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A.

11. External parasites

Within 96 hours prior to export the cat must be treated with approved parasiticides effective against ticks. The active ingredient/s and concentration must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A.

12. Pre-export inspection

Within 48 hours prior to export the cat must be examined by a registered veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian and found to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites, and to be fit to travel.

13. Laboratory testing

All immunological tests are to be carried out by an official diagnostic laboratories approved by the competent authority of the exporting country. An approved laboratory need not be situated in the country of export.

TRANSPORT

14. If being consigned by air the cat must be consigned to Australia in a container of no lesser standard than that required by CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 1 of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations. This specifies, among other things, that the container must:

- be strong enough to prevent the animal escaping;
- have one end open and covered with bars, weld mesh, or smooth expanded metal securely attached, to provide the main ventilation opening;
- have ventilation openings on all sides totalling a minimum of 16% of the surface area of the four sides;
- only have ventilation openings of such size that it is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container;
- be large enough to permit the animal to stand in a natural position, turn around and lie down; and
- contain a drinking bowl to which water can be added without opening the container.

In addition the container must be sealed with an official seal/s prior to departure from the country of territory of export and the number/s on the seal/s

recorded on Veterinary Certificate B. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal/s must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal/s.

15. If being consigned by sea, the Master of the vessel and the Port Authority must certify that the cat was confined on board and had no contact with other animals at each port of call.
16. During transport to Australia the cat must not be trans-shipped (change of aircraft or vessel) other than in a rabies free country or territory or in a country or territory to which these conditions apply. Trans-shipment will require the approval of the relevant authority in the country of trans-shipment as well as the prior approval of the PVO(Q).

If the container is opened during transit or trans-shipment it should be resealed and a certificate should be provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority or the Captain of the aircraft detailing the circumstances. Instructions to this effect should be attached to the outside of the container before departure from the port of export.

No animal other than animals being exported to Australia or New Zealand may be carried on the same aircraft or vessel.

POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

17. On arrival in Australia the cat will be transported direct to the approved quarantine station. If the container is unsealed, or if the seal is broken, or if the accompanying documentation is unsatisfactory, or if any of these requirements have not been met, the cat may, at the discretion of the PVO(Q) and at the importer's expense, be exported, or destroyed, or treated, or required to remain in quarantine until any exotic disease concerns are resolved.
18. Each cat imported under these conditions will be required to serve a period of quarantine in an approved animal quarantine station after arrival.

Cats validly returning to Australia with less than six months residency in the country of export must serve at least thirty (30) days quarantine.

In the case of other eligible cats the length of quarantine period depends on the timing of the rabies neutralizing antibody titer test (showing an antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml).

No cat shall serve less than 30 days in quarantine irrespective of the date of its rabies vaccinations and tests. Otherwise, the minimum quarantine period is such that no cat will be released from quarantine until at least 180 days following the certified date of collection of the blood sample for the rabies neutralization test that was used to obtain the import permit attached to these conditions. For example:

<u>Collection of samples for rabies neutralizing antibody titer test</u>	<u>minimum quarantine period</u>
150 days prior to arrival in Australia.	30 days
135 days prior to arrival in Australia.	45 days
120 days prior to arrival in Australia.	60 days
90 days prior to arrival in Australia.	90 days

19. During quarantine the cat may be subjected to any additional testing or treatment, as specified by AQIS, at the importer's expense.

APPENDIX 1:

APPROVED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES RECOGNISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN WHICH DOG-MEDIATED RABIES IS ABSENT OR WELL CONTROLLED - MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS QUARANTINE & RABIES VACCINATION

Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Canada, Cayman Islands, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Peninsular Malaysia, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Portugal, Sabah, Sarawak, Seychelles, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United States of America

APPENDIX 2:

ADDRESSES OF PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICERS (QUARANTINE)

For quarantine at Eastern Creek (NSW) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Quarantine Inspection Centre
PO Box 657
Mascot NSW 2020
Telephone: (02) 3647222 Facsimile: (02) 3647350

For quarantine at Spotswood (Vic.) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Quarantine Services Building
PO Box 1006
Tullamarine, Victoria 3043
Telephone: (03) 3383344 Facsimile: (03) 3380844

For quarantine at Byford (WA) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1410
Canning Vale, WA 6970
Telephone: (09) 3115333 Facsimile: (09) 4553052